Utah School Accountability Redesign

Education Interim Committee
November 16, 2022

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Process

The Utah State Legislature has established and maintains authority for Utah's School Accountability System and has directed the Utah State School Board to "adopt rules to implement a statewide accountability system."

Charge

Redesign Utah's School Accountability System to be more aligned with Personalized, Competency-Based Learning and Utah's Portrait of a Graduate while maintaining an easy to compare, simple, and transparent school accountability system.

Executive Committee (17 Members)

The Executive Committee met early in the process to help establish the "ground rules" for the overall system and to review the early work of the Advisory Committee.

The Executive Committee was provided the report on October 31, 2022 (they did not have a quorum present)

Advisory Committee (29 Members)

- Convened 11 times (full and half day meetings)
- 50+ hours per person
- Approximately 1,500 hours combined
- Teachers, parents, principals, local board members, charter directors, superintendents, assistant superintendents, LEA specialists, and assessment directors

Public Engagement

- Completed Survey – 4000+ responses.
- Completed Virtual Sessions – Key Areas of Quality
  - **March 1, 2022**
  - **March 3, 2022**
- In-person Sessions – Prioritizing Key Areas of Quality
  - **April 19, 2022** Washington County School District Office
  - **April 20, 2022** Murray School District Office

Key Recommendations

The Committees put forth several important recommendations, but the two most important ones are:

- **Inclusion of local indicators that "count,"** Statewide indicators would count as well
- Use of a **"profile approach"** for reporting accountability results.

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Local Indicators

- Advisory Committee recommendations include three classes of local indicators.
  - **School Climate**
  - **Supporting Learner Agency**
  - **Portrait of a Graduate**
- The Advisory Committee wanted to focus on student outcomes (PoG) while recognizing the need to incentivize important enabling factors (inputs) such as **learner agency** and **school climate.**

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Local Indicators: Striving for Efficiency

- The committee was also striving for efficiency where possible by capitalizing on existing structures:
  - **School Accreditation System**
  - **School Lands Trust Program**

- The Advisory Committee wanted to reduce additional burdens and requirements on schools while still collecting high-quality information

Potential High School Indicators

POTENTIAL State Indicators

1. Academic mastery
   a. Academic achievement
   b. Academic growth
2. Postsecondary readiness
   a. College, career, and civic readiness
   b. Graduation rate,
3. English language proficiency and progress,
4. Leadership for Learning

   Based on Accreditation
   a. Culture of Learning
   b. Leadership for Learning
   c. Engagement of Learning
   d. Growth in Learning:

POTENTIAL Local Indicators

- School Climate

- Learner Agency & Mastery

- Up to three additional Portrait of a Graduate competencies

Potential alignment with the School Land Trust infrastructure.

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Potential K-8 Indicators

POTENTIAL State Indicators

1. Academic mastery
   a. Academic achievement
   b. Academic growth
2. English language proficiency and progress
3. Growth of the lowest performing students

POTENTIAL Local Indicators

- School Climate
- Learner Agency & Mastery
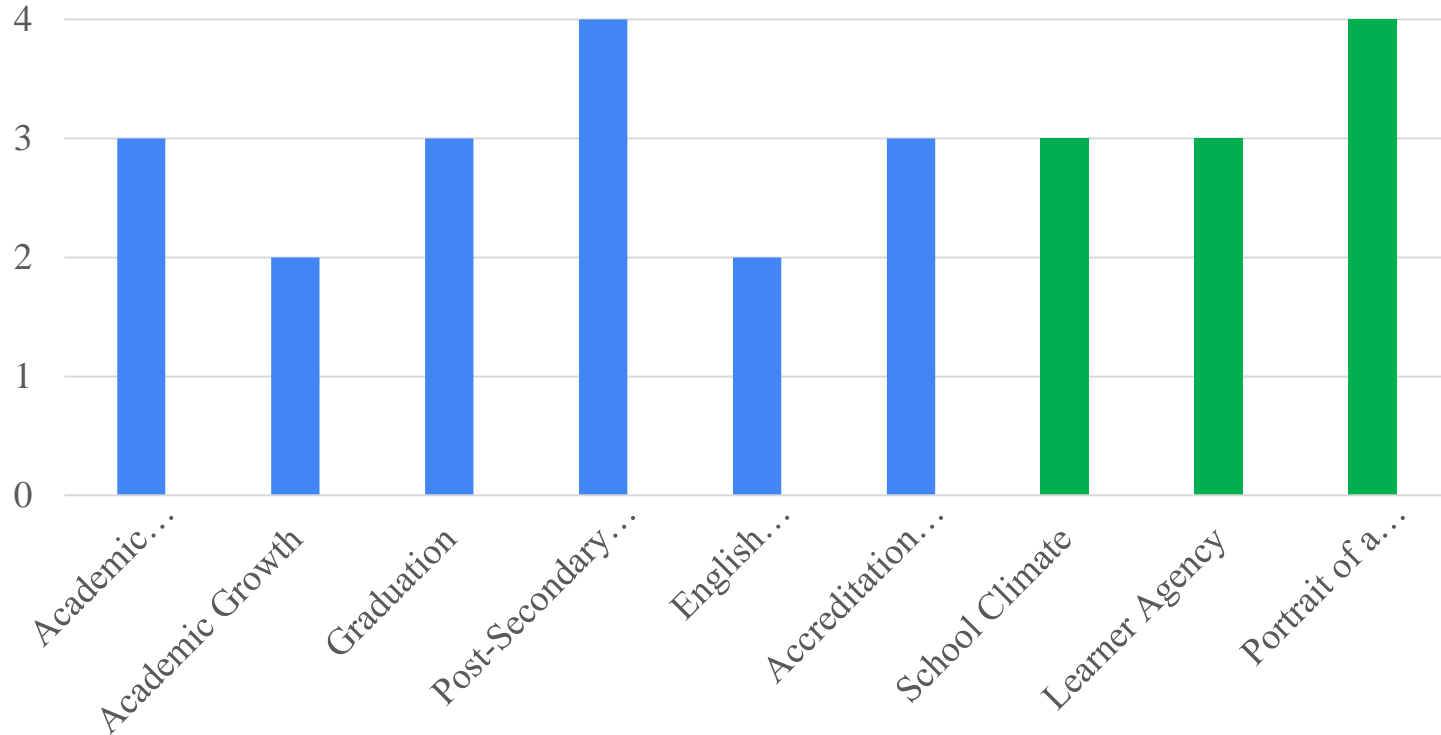- Up to three additional Portrait of a Graduate competencies

Potential alignment with the School Land Trust infrastructure.

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Profile Approach

- The Advisory Committee recommended using a "dashboard" or "profile" approach for displaying the results and supporting school improvement decisions.

- This approach is highly transparent because each indicator is prominently displayed, rather than obscuring such information in a total score and/or school grade.

HS Profile Example

Policy Recommendations

- To enact the Advisory Committee's recommendations, several policy changes would be necessary:

- **Accountability**
    - Indicators
    - School Performance Levels
    - Calculation of points
    - Reporting

- **School Improvement**
    - Definitions of school improvement & School Identification
    - Needs assessment for Springboard and Elevate Schools
    - Exit criteria

Next Steps

Policy leaders consider the recommendations in efforts to create the enabling legislation to support the further design and implementation of a next-generation accountability system.

"The Committee urges…. to recognize the intense work and deliberations contained in this report and the grounded wisdom of those closest to the work of school improvement."

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Questions?